

State of Michigan
State Board of Education

RESOLUTION

Bernard “Bernie” H. Travnikar

WHEREAS, Bernard “Bernie” Travnikar was a district leader pioneering inclusive practices providing appropriate services and supports so that all children could learn together and achieve their maximum potential; and

WHEREAS, Bernie was a long time champion for people with disabilities promoting Positive Behavior Support within Michigan and around the country, spreading the initiative to thousands of educators and stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, Bernie was a selfless volunteer in schools and many communities, always open to helping those deemed toughest to reach and teach, and left his mark on the world of education for all children; and

WHEREAS, in September 1995 Bernie was appointed by the State Board of Education to the Special Education Advisory Committee for a three year term, serving as Vice Chair from September 1996 to June 1997; and

WHEREAS, Bernie was an original Board member and the first and only Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Macomb Oakland Regional Center (MORC), Inc. a human service agency serving persons with disabilities in Macomb and Oakland Counties; and

WHEREAS, Bernie shared his knowledge and skills with people in places like Moldova, Kazakhstan, and Tajikistan, where his message was always the same — “All people are valuable. All people have potential to live in the community and contribute to its prosperity. To realize this potential, all people must live, learn, and work together”; and

WHEREAS, Bernie also served as a university professor (Madonna University); director of special services; principal and central office administrator (Lamphere Schools), as well as various therapeutics and/or teaching positions within Community Mental Health (Macomb County) and the Michigan Department of Mental Health; and

WHEREAS, Bernie was a frequently invited presenter at state and national conferences and was committed to helping all young persons take active and responsible charge of their lives; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education does hereby express its deep sorrow at Bernard H. Travnikar’s death, and in so doing takes official recognition of the many contributions to education that Mr. Travnikar made during his lifetime; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education does hereby express their grief and condolences to Kathy, Bernie’s wife of over 30 years, and directs that a copy of this resolution be presented to her.



Adopted October 14, 2008

Kathleen N. Straus, President

Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman and
Superintendent of Public Instruction